

For U.S. forces
serving abroad

Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Monday, April 6, 1998

Eight pages

AF hoping bonuses keep security airmen

By Stars and Stripes

An offer of \$65,000 to \$70,000 a year was too good for Senior Airman Ricky Robinette to turn down.

So Robinette is packing up, moving on and leaving the Air Force's Security Forces behind for a job in offshore drilling in Louisiana. A re-enlistment bonus averaging \$6,000 per airman that is now being offered to first-term security force members wasn't enough to keep Robinette, who leaves RAF Mildenhall, England, this week.

"It just didn't compare," said the airman of the re-enlistment incentive.

Robinette is one of the first-term airmen in the security forces who are slipping through the Air Force's hands when their enlistment ends in search of more money and regular hours.

At the same time, the service is short on police overall — with only about 88 percent of its allotted cop slots filled. In Europe, the Air Force is at about 93 percent of its authorized strength in security forces, said a U.S. Air Forces in Europe spokesman.

The service has traditionally lost some first-term security police because the job turned out to involve

few high-speed car chases and too many long nights guarding expensive airplanes.

But to blame for the increasingly eroding ranks of security forces, in the service's view, are all the usual suspects in the Air Force lineup of the late 1990s:

- A strong economy and job market outside the Air Force.
- A high operations tempo and regular deployments lasting 120 days.
- And the perception of diminishing benefits.

For instance, 75 percent of the security forces units throughout USAFE have been on variations of 12-hour shifts over the last two years, command spokesman Capt. Troy Kitch said. USAFE officials would not elaborate on how many units currently work 12-hour shifts.

Last year, the 423rd Air Base Squadron at RAF Molesworth, England, was so short on police that extra security forces had to be brought in to England for several months of temporary duty.

Today, squadron officials will say only that they face the same manning problems as other USAFE bases.

Dropout rate of pilots has Army worried

By Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's exodus of fighter pilots has garnered a lot of attention over the past year, but a combat pilot drain in the Army is almost as bad, officials say.

Staffing rates in the fleet of 900 warrant officers who fly the AH-64 Apache helicopter gunship, the Army's front-line combat aircraft, dipped from historically high levels of close to 100 percent to around 85 percent last fall.

The rates have crept back up to about 90 percent since then, but could drop again later this year as the Army begins to replace the A model Apache with the new AH-64D Longbow version, officials said.

The relatively high attrition rate stems from a shrinking assignment rotation cycle that has squeezed the normal 36-month stateside tour to around 24 months. That translates into longer family separations for more frequent unaccompanied one-year tours in South Korea and "quasi-accompanied" tours in Europe that often entail multiple six-month stints in Bosnia.

Pilots say the open-ended mission in the Balkans has put a serious dent in morale.

Clinton to shut loophole in assault weapons ban

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has decided to permanently ban a practice that has allowed the importation of popular semiautomatic assault weapons like the AK-47 and the Uzi, closing what he regards as a major loophole in the nation's gun control laws, administration officials said.

As many as 1.6 million rifles for which permits are pending or have already been issued would be blocked from entering

the country by the executive order Clinton is scheduled to announce at a White House ceremony today, the officials said. The president will declare that 59 models of military-style rifles previously certified for import because they had been modified to be used for sporting purposes will now fall under laws and regulations banning assault weapons.

Although the measure has been widely anticipated since Clinton imposed a temporary ban on the modified rifles in No-

vember, both administration officials and opponents of the ban depicted it as the most rigorous gun-control measure Clinton has imposed by executive action.

"The issue has been studied and considered, and now the president is moving forward to ensure that these deadly weapons do not end up on our streets," said a senior White House official.

Major restrictions on the importation of foreign-made assault weapons were first imposed in 1989.

WWII POW, biographer Stewart dies

By New York Times

Sidney Stewart, a survivor of the Bataan death march and three years in Japanese captivity in World War II, who wrote the highly praised memoir Give Us This Day, an account of how the prisoners endured intense suffering, died at a Paris hospital. He was 78 and lived in Paris.

Stewart, who became a psychoanalyst after the war and opened a practice in Paris, was a soldier in Manila when Japanese forces landed in the Philippines in December 1941. He was among the troops evacuated to the Bataan Peninsula.

When Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, the Japanese rounded up 10,000 American troops and tens of thousands of Filipino troops and ordered them to walk 65 miles north to a prison camp, providing little food or water. In this infamous chapter of the war, at least 600 Americans died, and of the 10,000 who surrendered about 4,000 were alive when the Japanese prison camps were liberated in August 1945.

Stewart, more than 6 feet tall, weighed 65 pounds when he was freed by Soviet troops from a Japanese prison camp in Manchuria.

While a patient at a Veterans Administration hospital, Stewart wrote his memoir, telling how he and 18 men he had known in Manila coped with imprisonment, brutality, and impending death.

Japanese-American WWII memorial coming

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hank Yoshitake was 19 when he and other soldiers of the Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team punched through German defenses in 1945 to help end the Italian campaign of World War II.

Yoshitake, now 73, joined scores of veterans, their families and officials at Sunday's groundbreaking for the Go For Broke monument. It honors Japanese-Americans who fought in World War II while their families remained locked up in internment camps.

"We're not here for ourselves, but for our kids and grandkids," he said. "They can hold their heads up high when they

Magazine: Candidates still have NATO spies

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic all want to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization but are still spying on their future alliance partners, Der Spiegel magazine said Saturday.

Citing NATO security sources, the Hamburg-based weekly said that now, as before, there are still close contacts between intelligence agents of the countries seeking NATO membership and Russian spy operatives.

The countries also have attempted to place agents in NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, the report said.

It said that in checking on some proposed representatives to NATO from Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, officials uncovered intelligence service connections and de-

clined to accredit them.

NATO officials are especially upset over the spies because the east European candidates have been allowed to sit in as unofficial participants on NATO meetings since Jan. 1, Der Spiegel reported.

Peter Frisch, Germany's president of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, says especially Poland has not stopped spy activity against Germany, although Poland signed a NATO agreement on the protection of classified material, the report explained.

Frisch could not be reached Saturday to confirm the report.

Der Spiegel added that the Polish government has denied the charges and said it has gotten rid of 600 of a total of 1,000 agents it previously had working in foreign intelligence.

Vietnam to survey war chemical use

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Prime Minister Phan Van Khai has ordered the first nationwide survey of people affected by toxic chemicals used by U.S. forces during the Vietnam War, the Nhan Dan newspaper reported Monday.

Results would be used to work out long-term solutions to deal with the health problems associated with the use of defoliants like Agent Orange and other chemicals.

In 1994, the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare estimated 2 million people were suffering from the after-effects.

The survey, to be completed next year, will focus on soldiers, government workers and volunteers who either worked or fought in areas sprayed with chemicals, and either suffer from illnesses related to that exposure or gave birth to deformed children.

Stripes

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To contact the Stripes staff, call DSN 349-8220 (civilian 49-6155-601220). Our fax is DSN 349-8416.

Our mailing address:

Stripes

c/o Unit 29480

APO AE 09211

Our e-mail address :

Stripeslit@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Pair's slaying tied to baby theft

CHICAGO (AP) — Jacinita and Mariano Soto — with their toddler and newborn baby in tow — had moved into a new neighborhood a few weeks ago, searching for a better and safer life.

Bothered by gang violence in their old neighborhood, they turned to a basement apartment on a quiet, tree-lined street on Chicago's North Side. If police are right, the events that led to their murder began when Soto paid a simple visit to a doctor.

It was there, authorities said, that she and 2-month-old daughter Guadalupe Marie were spotted by 22-year-old Adriana Mejia, who plotted to kill the Sotos the very next day and snatch their children — all because

she couldn't have a baby of her own.

"It's an unbelievable story," said Kevin Morison, a police spokesman.

Police said Mejia persuaded her 25-year-old cousin, Arturo Leon, and their 23-year-old housemate, Gabriel Solache, to help her carry out the plan in the early morning hours of March 28.

Police say Mejia paid Leon \$600 to help with the plot, though it wasn't clear whether he was to split the money with Solache. All three were charged Sunday with first-degree murder, kidnapping and home invasion.

Mejia has tried unsuccessfully to have a baby since she got married four years ago, police said.

But she fooled her husband and friends into believing she was pregnant and, after deciding upon the Sotos' baby, told him she was going to the hospital to have her child, police said.

"She said, 'I've had a baby girl. Pick me up in the morning,'" said police Commander Philip Cline.

That was late March 27 — the same night a suburban Chicago jury recommended a death sentence for Jacqueline Williams, convicted of killing two children in 1995 along with their pregnant mother, whose full-term baby was cut from her womb.

Investigators said Mejia did not mention that case.

School shooting suspect's mom says attack 11-year-old's idea

JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) — A woman whose 13-year-old son is accused of killing five people in a school ambush told Time magazine that the boy "never meant to hurt anybody."

Gretchen Woodard said her son, Mitchell Johnson, told her the March 24 attack that left four young girls and a teacher dead was planned by Mitchell's alleged accomplice, 11-year-old Drew Golden.

Drew asked Mitchell to help him on the bus ride home from school the day before the shooting,

Woodard says in the issue of the magazine that appears on newsstands today.

"Mitch told me he never meant to hurt anybody, and he didn't take specific aim," Woodard said. "He just meant to scare them, I guess. But then something went terribly wrong."

Both boys have been charged in juvenile court with five counts of murder and 10 counts of first-degree battery. Police say Drew set off the fire alarm and the two boys opened fire on schoolmates and teachers who filed out of

the building.

Drew's grandfather, Doug Golden, has said that Mitchell instigated the attack.

Golden said his grandson admitted firing some shots, but not targeting anyone.

A message left Sunday at the office of Drew's attorney, Val Price, was not immediately returned.

Mitchell has lost weight while confined at the Craighead County Detention Center, Woodard said. He looks "thin, sallow and dehydrated, with very dry, cracked lips.

Drugs called threat to Mexico's democracy

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Calling the illegal drug trade a threat to democracy, U.S. drug czar Gen. Barry McCaffrey praised Mexican efforts to fight narcotics trafficking Sunday and said much work remains to be done.

"We face a common problem of enormous magnitude — of violence and corruption, of drug abuse by our citizens, an attack on our democratic institutions," McCaffrey told reporters upon arriving at

the capital airport.

McCaffrey and other U.S. officials are in Mexico for the fifth meeting of the Joint High Level Contact Group, which is coordinating drug strategy between the two nations.

It is the group's first meeting since the Clinton administration certified Mexico in late February as fully cooperating with U.S. efforts to curb cross-border drug trafficking.

B-2 bombers return home to California

By Stars and Stripes

FINEGAYAN, Guam — A pair of B-2A Spirit bombers Thursday left Guam for home and will be scanned with radar as they near California's Edwards Air Force Base to test whether their first extended forward deployment degraded the planes' stealthiness.

The B-2s, based at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., were training out of Andersen Air Force Base on Guam for the past 11 days.

Whiteman's 509th Bomb Wing spokesman, Capt. Bruce Sprecher, said that despite news reports saying the planes required intensive maintenance and had to be stored in hangars, no problems linked to Guam's high heat and humidity were found.

"Looks like we shot a hole in that one," Sprecher said.

"We had them baked in the sun and drenched in the rain.

"We had one plane or the other parked outside for maintenance. It seemed to have no effect on the planes at all."

Free to do job now, Clinton says

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Clinton said in an interview released Sunday that the judge's decision to dismiss the Paula Jones case was in the national interest and will liberate him to focus attention on important issues such as tobacco, education and Social Security.

"I feel now that I'm freer to keep doing what I'm supposed to be doing," he said. "It removes whatever obstacle this

case would have been to my giving everything to this job for the next two years. Every hour, every minute I spend diverted on these questions is disserving the American people."

In an interview in this week's issue of Time magazine, Clinton said the ruling by U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright "exposed the raw political nature" of the long-running sexual harassment case and he again denied

that he made unwelcome advances to either Jones or former aide Kathleen E. Willey. The president declined to accept any responsibility for his troubles and refused to talk about the criminal investigation by independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr.

Still, the comments were the most extended public reaction offered by Clinton since Wright threw out the case last Wednesday. The judge concluded that even if he did

make a lewd proposition in a Little Rock hotel suite in 1991, as Jones charged, such "boorish and offensive" conduct would not constitute sexual harassment under the law.

While in private, Clinton happily chewed on a cigar and banged a drum when he heard the news during his trip to Africa, the president stuck to the more sedate public response favored by his advisers in the magazine interview, conducted on Air Force One.

Liquor lobby puts the skids on drinking standards vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — Intense lobbying by the liquor and restaurant industries helped prevent a House vote on legislation lowering the threshold of drunkenness behind the wheel.

Such laws should be left to the states, not Washington, says the Republican committee chairman whose panel kept the measure off the House floor. But its Democratic sponsor says the committee action proves unmistakably that "the liquor lobby ... put profits ahead of people's lives."

The legislation was an amendment to a giant highway spending bill that would have taken highway money away from states that don't enact .08 percent blood alcohol content levels for drunken driving.

It is shaping up as one of the most hard-fought drinking issues since the drive more than a decade ago to make 21 the nationally recognized legal age for drinking.

A month ago, the Senate passed such an amendment to its highway bill by a strong 62-32 vote, and President Clinton has endorsed a national .08 percent standard that already is in force in 16 states.

Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., main sponsor of the House amendment, angrily blamed the liquor and restaurant lobbies for stopping her amendment from even getting a vote. "Today the liquor lobby bottled up our bill and demonstrated loud and clear that they put profits ahead of people's lives," Lowey said.

Efficiency plan is proposed to spy-catchers

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The chief government agency responsible for keeping potential spies off U.S. government payrolls believes it has a better way — one that would cost less money while improving the odds of identifying potential turncoats such as Douglas Fred Groat, a fired CIA officer who was arrested Friday.

But others involved in the spy-catching business fear that instead, traitors might be able to elude capture for longer.

With spy-catching budgets being squeezed, reformers at the Defense Security Service, the agency responsible for checking the reliability of workers in jobs with access to sensitive information, are pushing the efficiency plan. They would substitute quicker — but less thorough — telephone conversations for many of today's in-person interviews of neighbors and social acquaintances.

These efforts to gather information from nongovernmental sources yield little, the reformers argue. What's worse, they keep investigators from devoting enough time to talking to employees' bosses and co-workers, who — in a series of major spy cases — have been much more likely to have leads on the traitors in their ranks. More careful interviews with co-workers and superiors, according to this view, might have caught Aldrich H. Ames and Harold Nicholson.

Booze still big factor in violent crime

WASHINGTON (AP) — In nearly 40 percent of violent crimes, alcohol is a factor, even as it declines as a cause of death, the Justice Department reports.

Alcohol is an even bigger factor in violence by a variety of intimates — a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend. Victims of those attacks cited alcohol as a factor in

two-thirds of them. Victims of spouse violence alone said three-fourths of their attackers used alcohol. The report, released Sunday by the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, said that among the 7.7 million violent crimes each year where victims can tell whether attackers used alcohol, drugs or both, 37 percent thought their assailants

were using alcohol or alcohol and drugs. Of the 5.3 million convicted adult offenders in prison, jail or on parole or probation in 1996, 36 percent reported they had been drinking at the time of the crime for which they were convicted, the report estimated. The report also said one in five victims of alcohol-related violence reports a financial loss.

Kids silent on mother's killing: O.J.

LONDON (AP) — O.J. Simpson, sensationally cleared of murdering his ex-wife, says their two children have never mentioned her death to him since the day she was killed in 1994.

The American former star football player, speaking in a British Broadcasting Corp. interview published Sunday, added he has never wanted to talk to his daughter, Sydney, 12, and son, Justin, 9, about their mother's murder.

"Sydney has never mentioned it once, never asked about it," Simpson told interviewer Ruby Wax. "Not even my son. He has never even once mentioned it."

The BBC supplied a transcript of the interview to London's Sunday Telegraph. A BBC spokeswoman said the interview will be aired later this month at a date to be fixed.

Simpson, who also became a Hollywood celebrity, was acquitted in 1995 of the knife slayings of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

The Brown and Goldman families then brought a civil wrongful death suit, and jurors last year held that Simpson was responsible and ordered him to pay \$33.5 million in damages. Both trials were avidly followed in America.

Maintaining his children have remained silent on the topic, Simpson said the "best shrinks and child psychologists" had advised him, "Let them bring it up, let them talk about it when they want to."

Simpson also reiterated denials that he was the murderer.

Rebellion, violence are simmering in Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Blood-red graffiti scrawled on the sides of houses and mosques in Bahrain shout for democracy, vowing a fight to the death. And every few months, arsonists burn another business center or store to the ground.

Demanding jobs for the poor and an end to cronyism and corruption, the country's Shiite Muslim majority is lead-

Slayer of bombmaker arrested — Palestinians

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian officials announced Monday that they have arrested suspects in the death of the chief Hamas bomb maker who died under mysterious circumstances last week.

During the investigation, police also found large amounts of explosives and a bomb factory, according to an official in the office of Tayeb Abdel-Rahim, the secretary-general of the Palestinian Authority.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

The findings of the investigation were handed to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat earlier Monday and were to be made public at a news conference in Ramallah later in the day.

Mohiyedine Sharif's body was found on March 29 near the scene of a powerful car bomb explosion in a

garage in an industrial zone of the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Israeli bomb experts said after inspecting the scene that Sharif, the chief Hamas bomb maker, apparently was killed when the car bomb, intended for Israel, exploded prematurely.

However, Palestinian police, citing an autopsy, said Sharif was shot to death with two bullets in the chest and one in the leg before the bomb went off.

Investigators have since left room for the possibility that Sharif was hit in the chest by shrapnel.

Hamas has insisted that Israel killed Sharif and has vowed to carry out a series of revenge attacks in Israel.

Israel has said it had nothing to do with Sharif's death.

Vietnam rat traps kill 9 people

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam's battle against a rat plague is taking a human toll.

Two women died Friday in the central province of Quang Ngai when they went to work in a rice paddy and got a shock from an electric rat trap, the Lao Dong newspaper reported Monday.

Seven other people reportedly have been killed the same way recently. At least three children have

died from ingesting rat poison.

The government is in the midst of a major campaign to fight the expanding rat population that is eating more and more of the country's critical rice crop each year.

Last year, Vietnam killed 55 million rats. The Nhan Dan newspaper reported Monday that 32 million have been killed as of March 20 this year, according to figures from

just 28 of the country's 61 provinces.

Officials say losses to the rice crop amounted to \$6 million last year and could reach \$30 million annually if the number of rats keeps growing.

Some 220,000 acres of rice paddies were infested in 1995.

That rose to 925,000 acres last year.

Some local government officials offer bounties for each tail brought in.

ing a rebellion that has left more than 40 dead and caused millions of dollars in damage over the past three years.

A government crackdown in the Persian Gulf emirate, a key American ally and home to the U.S. 5th Fleet, has suppressed the uprising but failed to stamp it out.

Some are increasingly concerned that the simmering unrest could spark wider

instability in a region that controls much of the world's oil.

The target of the Shiites' anger is the country's ruling al Khalifa family, which comes from the Sunni branch of Islam and has run Bahrain for 200 years. Under the al Khalifa regime, the tiny island off the coast of Saudi Arabia has developed from a pearl and trading outpost to a regional tourism and banking center.

Springer decides he'd rather switch than fight

By Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — The *Jerry Springer Show*, which has become a ratings hit and a cultural phenomenon due to the hair-pulling, chair-throwing brawls among its guests, has had its punches pulled.

Just when the show was celebrating its victory this week as the top-rated syndicated series and the No. 1 talk show — even beating long-standing talk show champ Oprah Winfrey — the producer and distributor of *Springer* abruptly announced they will be cutting back on the trademark violent fights.

Executives said confrontations on the show will become more verbal and less physical. Guests who insist on punching will be kicked off the show. And parents will be warned in advisories not to let their children watch the program.

The restrictions stop just short of banning the fights, but executives said alterations would be edited out of broadcasts.

The moves mark an abrupt reversal of the position taken by Springer and the show's producers, who had previously been unapologetic about the show's tone and battles.

**Faces
'n'
places**

In a story published Sunday in the Los Angeles Times' entertainment section, Springer and USA Networks Studios executives pointed to the show's high ratings as a defense against the controversy that has clouded *Springer* for more than three years. That story was reported and printed before Friday's late announcement.

The changes, said USA Networks Studios executives, were made to address numerous recent concerns made by viewers and stations airing *Springer* about the show's violent nature. Legislators have labeled the program as being close to pornography, while parents have complained about children being exposed to the brawls and the inflammatory, sexually charged topics.

USA Networks Studios executives said the decision to alter *Springer* was part of a marketing strategy that had long been under discussion. Henry Schleiff, executive vice president in charge of talk shows for USA Networks Studios, maintained the program's popularity would continue and grow without the brawls.

"This show has a lot of bells and whistles without the sole emphasis on the physical. What works is the confrontation — not the physical, but the emotional confrontation," he said.

Ex-boyfriend wants letters of Di returned

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana's former boyfriend says he will go to court if necessary to get back her letters, which were allegedly stolen from his home, a newspaper reported Sunday.

"I will do everything in my power to get these letters back," The Sunday Telegraph quoted James Hewitt as saying. "They are my property. I have never attempted to sell them, show them off or use them at all."

Sixty-two letters to Hewitt from Diana that he kept in a safe at his home were given to Kensington Palace, after Hewitt's former fiancée, Anna Ferretti, allegedly tried to sell them to The Mirror, a daily tabloid. "They cannot keep items stolen from my house. If necessary I will take them to court," the newspaper quoted Hewitt as saying. "It is true that after Diana and I ended our relationship, she asked me to burn the letters but I couldn't." On Friday, the Mirror's front page featured a reproduction of a few lines of Diana's handwriting from one of the letters, in which she asked that Hewitt burn her letters.

Glenn to begin his astronaut training

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John Glenn is going to get a good dunking.

The Ohio Democrat headed back to basic training Saturday — astronaut training.

For the next two weeks, the 76-year-old who was the first American to orbit the Earth will be studying, practicing and working in NASA simulators to prepare for his return to space this fall.

Training will include water survival exercises.

"You're simulating bailing out at a low altitude," Glenn said.

"You go out on a pole over the pool and drop off," he said. "It's enjoyable to be doing some of those physical things."

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

April 6, 1988 — Arab hijackers forced a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet to land in northeastern Iran, threatened to blow it up and demanded that Kuwait release 17 pro-Iranian prisoners.

20 YEARS AGO

April 6, 1978 — At least 32 members of Congress were "double-dippers" — getting their monthly federal disability checks in addition to their annual salaries.

30 YEARS AGO

April 6, 1968 — "I do think it's the will of God," Coretta Scott King said after the April 4 assassination of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. King was called the father of nonviolence in the American civil rights movement and had won the Nobel Peace Prize.

40 YEARS AGO

April 6, 1958 — Lana Turner's daughter, Cheryl Crane, 14, stabbed and killed her mother's boyfriend, handsome Hollywood underworld figure John Sompanato, as he argued with Turner.

50 YEARS AGO

April 6, 1948 — A Soviet fighter plane "buzzed" a British transport plane in the air corridor to Berlin, and both planes crashed, killing all the occupants.

Nothing easy about Yanks' first victory

By Associated Press

The Yankees' first win was again in doubt, and although their owner was thousands of miles away, George Steinbrenner's presence could be felt in New York's gloomy dugout.

But after beginning Sunday as the AL's only winless team, baseball's highest-salaried squad closed out win No. 1 — a 9-7 victory in 10 innings over the Oakland Athletics.



It wasn't easy. New York blew two late-inning leads and lost closer Mariano Rivera to an injury before it was over.

"It was an important win, but even more important because it was our first one," said Jeff Nelson, who picked up the victory in relief. "I felt more nervous out there today than I did in the World Series."

New York was in danger of starting a season 0-4 for the first time since 1973, Steinbrenner's first year as owner. Although he didn't make the trip west, Steinbrenner had criticized his team after the Yankees lost their season opener at Anaheim.

After the Yankees blew a two-run lead in the ninth, Chuck Knoblauch and Derek Jeter drove in runs in the 10th inning.

"Get the champagne out, because this one was a hard one to get," Jeter said. "But now we've got this one out

of the way, so we can just go out and play."

Elsewhere in the AL, it was: Cleveland 6, Anaheim 4; Boston 10, Seattle 5; Tampa Bay 5, Chicago 0; Baltimore 6, Detroit 3; Minnesota 10, Kansas City 1; and Texas 6, Toronto 5.

With New York leading 7-5 in the ninth, Rivera was one strike away from a save when he strained his groin and had to leave. Graeme Lloyd came on and walked Matt Stairs before Jason Giambi homered to tie it 7-7.

The Yankees were expected to wait for several days before deciding whether Rivera would go on the disabled list.

In the top of the inning, Oakland reliever Mike Fetters was also forced out after straining his left calf. He's expected to miss three weeks.

"I like the way it turned out but I didn't like how the game went," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "It's a very costly victory, for both teams. Two clubs lose their closer. Just weird. A strange game."

At Anaheim, Calif., David Justice went 3-for-3 with his first homer and Charles Nagy pitched 7 1-3 strong innings as Cleveland remained the only unbeaten team in the majors.

The Indians' 5-0 start is their best since 1966, when they opened with 10 wins. Cleveland, which began the year with two wins at Seattle, has scored 42 runs, an average of 8.4 per game.



AP

Atlanta's Rafael Belliard jumps over the Phillies' Scott Rolen as he turns a double play.

Pitching rules in NL as Benes spurs Ariz.

By Associated Press

Kevin Brown shut out Mark McGwire. Curt Schilling outduelled Greg Maddux. Ramon Martinez was nearly perfect and Masato Yoshii made a neat start.

On a day when pitching ruled the NL, however, Andy Benes and the Arizona Diamondbacks made history.

The expansion Diamondbacks won for the first time ever, stopping a five-game losing streak Sunday night with a 3-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

"I just happened to be the guy who was out there and got lucky on a few not-so-well executed pitches," said Benes, who overcame two home runs by Bill Mueller.

Arizona's win left Montreal as the only winless team in the majors. Tampa Bay, baseball's other first-year club, is 4-2 in the AL.

McGwire's bid to become the only NL player to homer in his first five games ended in the St. Louis Cardinals' 8-7 loss to the San Diego Padres. He went 1-

for-4 with a walk, striking out twice against the sinkerballing Brown.

"He was as nasty as ever," McGwire said. "He's one of the best in the game."

Schilling was nearly untouchable, striking out 15 as the Philadelphia Phillies beat Maddux and the Atlanta Braves 2-1. Schilling, who set an NL record for right-handers by fanning 319 last year, came within one strikeout of his single-game high.

Martinez also dominated with his fastball, retiring the first 20 batters in leading the Los Angeles Dodgers past the Cincinnati Reds 1-0. Martinez, who pitched a no-hitter in 1995, walked a batter with two outs in the seventh and gave up a single to Eddie Taubensee with two outs in the eighth. "My reaction when I lost it was, 'I came close. That's OK. I'll probably have another chance,'" Martinez said. In other games, Milwaukee beat Florida 5-2, Houston downed Colorado 6-2, New York defeated Pittsburgh 7-0 and Chicago topped Montreal 7-2.



Only Chicago appears to be ready for playoffs

By Associated Press

It looks like the dog days of the NBA season haven't quite ended yet. How else to explain why so many playoff contenders played like mongrels against the mutts of the league.

Seattle barely beat Denver.

Utah barely beat Vancouver.

Indiana barely beat Milwaukee.

Cleveland barely beat the Clippers.

And that wasn't all Sunday.

The Lakers needed overtime to beat Detroit, Atlanta lost at home to Minnesota and New York was simply flattened by Boston.

With only two weeks left in the regular season, only the Chicago Bulls looked like a team ready to start the postseason. Despite being without Luc Longley and Toni Kukoc, the Bulls overpowered the faltering Houston Rockets 109-94 to extend their winning streak to 12 games — the longest in the NBA this season.

"We have a lot of turmoil on this team, but when we get on the court everything is fine," Dennis Rodman said after Chicago improved the league's best record to

58-17.

In other games, Seattle edged Denver 87-83, Utah defeated Vancouver 99-93, Indiana nipped Milwaukee 93-92, Cleveland outlasted the Clippers 94-93, the Lakers topped Detroit 105-103 in overtime, Minnesota topped Atlanta 97-96, Boston drubbed New York 102-92, Washington defeated Orlando 88-85, Philadelphia beat Toronto 116-104 and Sacramento topped Dallas 105-99.

Michael Jordan scored 40 points for the Bulls, reaching that plateau for the 11th time this season. Scottie Pippen added 20 points, eight assists and five blocked shots while Scott Burrell had 15 points.

Rodman had 12 rebounds and a season-high eight assists and Bill Wennington, making only his third start of the year because of a foot injury to Kukoc, added 14.

"That is the best team in the NBA," Houston's Mario Elie said. "In the fourth quarter they were stroking the ball so well. Jordan was tremendous and his concentration level was simply phenomenal."

Houston's Eddie Johnson opened the fourth quarter with a basket to cut the Bulls' lead to 71-68. Burrell then scored 13 points, including three 3-pointers, and



AP

The Bulls' Michael Jordan slam dunks against Houston on Sunday.

Pippen added nine as Chicago opened a 93-78 lead.

"Rhythm is everything, that and cohesion. That's what we have," Jordan said.

At Denver, the Sonics had to work a lot harder than they initially expected in order to win their 57th game.

Vin Baker scored 21 points, including two crucial baskets off offensive rebounds in the final minute, as Seattle kept the Nuggets at nine victories.



Rhodes' shutout goaltending leads Senators

By Associated Press

There haven't been many times Buffalo's Dominik Hasek has been overshadowed by the opposing goaltender in the last few months, especially in his own building. Give Ottawa's Damian Rhodes a star for one game, at least.

"Now I can say that I did beat him," Rhodes said after making 22 saves to lead the Senators to a 1-0 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Sunday. "It's more of a boost for me to finally beat Buffalo. It's a little monkey off my back to beat them and know I can do it."

It was Rhodes' fifth shutout of the season, but

only the first victory of his career over the Sabres. It came against the league's shutout king. Hasek has 13 and is threatening to break Tony Esposito's post-expansion record of 15.

"They were everywhere," Hasek said.

"They covered every open space on the ice. I don't remember a team playing so well defensively."

Elsewhere, it was the New York Rangers 2, Chicago 1 in overtime; New Jersey 3, Phoenix 2; Florida 3, Pittsburgh 1; and Calgary 3, Anaheim 3.

Rhodes and his team-

mates couldn't have picked a better time to play one of their best games of the season. The victory moved Ottawa four points ahead of the idle Carolina Hurricanes for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Senators have seven games left and the Hurricanes, eight.

"This was a huge win for us," said Daniel Alfredsson, who scored the game's only goal. "We put the pressure back on Carolina. We just want to keep having control in our own hands. If we keep winning and playing the way we have, we're going to be OK."

Alfredsson scored when

he deflected a shot from the point past Hasek in the second period. Hasek stopped 32 other Ottawa shots.

While the Senators solidified their position by extending their unbeaten streak to four, the Sabres missed an opportunity to move into a tie for fourth place in the conference with Washington.

"He made some good saves," Senators coach Jacques Martin said of Rhodes. "We don't give a lot of shots, and our goalie had to be sharp. When we have breakdowns, it's nice to have your goalie making the key saves." Rangers 2, Blackhawks 1, OT

